

The Brethren Evangelist,

ASHLAND, OHIO.

A. D. GNAGEY, : : Editor.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1895.

RELIGIOUS WORLDLINESS.

That there is too much worldliness in the church, all will admit. Outside the church are those who by honesty, uprightness and purity of life, endeavor to conform their lives to that of a true Christian. This makes the world appear more religious than it really is. Within the church are those who *profess*, but *possess* not the true spirit of Christ. This makes the church appear more worldly. Thus religious worldliness, and worldly religiousness, partially obliterate moral distinctions, and bring the church and the world more nearly on a common level. In many of our popular churches, there is so much worldliness, not only as seen in individual members, but in the conduct of the church as an organization, that it is exceedingly difficult to draw the line of separation between the world and the church. Who shall say where the one ends and the other begins? There is something radically wrong somewhere and the wrong, we are pained to say is in the church. The world outside the church is about as good as we can expect it to be, *without the power and elevating influence of the Christ-life*. But the men and women who make up the church, are far from being what they *ought* to be, morally and religiously, and what it is possible for them *to* be, with the means at their command for religious development. The Christ-life in us properly nourished, the Bible, with its inspiring and elevating truths, the soul-saving power of its words, the sanctuary, the Sabbath-school and prayer-meeting services, with their sacred influences, the large and numerous opportunities afforded for works of mercy, love and acts of sweet charity—these means properly used, would make almost infinitely better men and women, and vastly increase the usefulness of the Christian church. The church of to-day is not thoroughly awake to the opportunities and privileges God offers it, and to a great extent fails to grasp and use the divine power within its reach. *Worldliness*, destroys the power, influence and usefulness of the Christian church. If therefore, the church would rise to that

height of spirituality, possess that divine power and attain to that degree of usefulness, lying within its possibilities, it *must* shuffle off some of this worldliness, yea, all of it, and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ." When once the church gets rid of this hindrance, this continual stumbling block, we call *worldliness*, then and not until then, will the world again feel the power of that organization, known as the Christian church.

THE PLAN APPROVED.

We are pleased to announce that from our suggestions in these columns, a plan has been formulated, by which the Theological Department in Ashland University, can be sustained, with but very little burden to any one. It is understood that the brotherhood at large is to sustain this department, and we repeat here what we have before stated, that the church cannot engage in a nobler and more useful work than this. We do not now think of any other work the church can do, that will be so far reaching in its influence, as to give liberal support to the education of young men and women for the Christian ministry. A well qualified ministry is the hope of our church, and it becomes every one interested in the cause of the Brethren church to lend a helping hand in bringing about the much desired end.

The Sisters' Society of Christian Endeavor has undertaken to do this work, but only by the help of the whole brotherhood. We cannot expect our sisters to empty out their treasury, and without our help, support this most important department in Ashland University. Let us come to the help of our earnest, consecrated, self-sacrificing sisters, and the work can easily be accomplished. To simplify the work, the following plan has been adopted: It is proposed to get a number of members who will pay into the treasury of the S. S. C. E., at the rate of \$1.00 per year for five years, which with what the sisters are able to furnish besides, will sustain the department. We have printed four thousand pledges, which will be given into the hands of the National president of the S. S. C. E. She will carry them with her in her work, and send them out to places she cannot visit. The whole work is under her care and management, and those who are acquainted with Sister Grossnickle will entertain no fears as to the result. The pledges read thus:—

To sustain the Theological Department of Ashland University, I hereby pledge

myself to pay to the National Treasurer of the Sisters' Society of Christian Endeavor of the Brethren church, One Dollar per year for a period of five years.

Signed

Post Office

State

Date

Now, brethren, let us join hands and hearts and pocketbooks in this doubly important work, and by the grace of God, which is sufficient for all things, the work will be done, and the church rejoice over a glorious victory. Let all former prejudice, if there exists any, be eradicated from the heart, and "as one man come up to the help of the Lord," and God in his wisdom will establish our work.

HARD TIMES.

Whatever may be the causes that lead to financial panics, they do seem to come upon us at least every twenty or twenty-five years. "Hard Times," is what we call them. For several years money matters have been very close, and with poor people it has been difficult to provide even the necessities of life, let alone those things which are known as luxuries. During such times statesmen and politicians, present to the public, what they consider, the cause of the trouble. The statesmen endeavors to get at the *real* cause, while the politician blames the party in power, and invariably offers as his solution of the problem: "Throw the rascals out and vote in his party." Even the want of rain, and the consequent failure of crops, he attributes to a lack of legislative and executive ability of the party having control of the government.

To get at the real cause of the trouble, and offer a solution for the same, is not the province of this paper. We leave that to those who deal with the affairs of the State and Nation, and who have large experience in the administration of civil government, and a thorough knowledge of the science of political economy. We are constrained to say however, that if these wise statesmen and politicians would turn their attention to the *saloon*, they would find themselves in very close proximity with an institution which, directly or indirectly, is the cause of nine-tenths of the poverty, misery, wretchedness, and "hard times," in the country. This being true, there is only one solution to the problem, and that is the "wiping out" of the saloon.

As previously stated, the purpose of